

Mahoning County Teachers' Institute

THE OPENING SESSION

The teachers of Mahoning county met for their annual institute at 1:30 p. m. Monday, Aug. 28. The opening session was well attended and the addresses proved to be of unusual interest.

The instructors secured for the week are J. V. McMillan, Supt. of Schools, Marietta, O.; Prof. H. O. Ferguson, Supervisor of Music and Physical Education, Piqua, O., and Director Grace B. Sherwood, Teacher of Training Department of Minnesota University.

A new departure this year will be the departmental meetings in which four sections—Primary, Grammar Grade, One Room and High School will be organized. Supt. Hull explained that these sections will meet each forenoon the institute is in session and after organization each will take up the work in which it is particularly interested for discussion. Also that the organization is to be permanent and each is to hold meetings at various times throughout the school year. This is an excellent idea and if carried out as planned should prove far-reaching in its results.

An unusual number of new faces are seen this year but old and new alike seem to reflect the spirit of the enthusiastic and progressive teacher who is eager to make the most of the opportunities the week affords and the institute gives promise of being the best in the history of Mahoning county.

President A. W. Ricksecker appointed the following committees:

Nomination—Ralph Elser, G. H. Rowles, Ola Strong, W. H. Hoover, Mary McConnell.

Resolutions—R. M. Beeler, T. M. Robinson, Jessie F. Butts, Callie Williamson, P. B. Crabb.

THE TEACHER

By Grace B. Sherwood

Miss Sherwood gave a very interesting and instructive talk on the teacher in which she impressed all present with the responsibility of the work.

She laid emphasis upon the fact that teaching did not consist entirely of imparting subject matter from text books but that a teacher should be ready at all time to do anything that would be helpful to the child and lead him to become a more happy and beneficial citizen.

Emphasis was also laid upon domestic science, normal training and physical education.

Miss Sherwood is a strong advocate of professional training for teachers. She also encourages the reading of many professional books as an aid to escape educational ruts into which teachers are so prone to fall.

Furthermore, Miss Sherwood said: "It is the business of the teachers to keep well. The board of education hired a teacher of good health. It is the teacher's duty to stay that way." Plenty of sleep, nothing to eat that will not leave one in the best of condition physically and plenty of good healthful recreation are three essentials to good work.

She also discussed briefly the manner in which teachers should dress. Only the best looking and most comfortable clothing should be worn as these lend a pleasing personality which is so necessary for the successful teacher.

Last but not least the teacher must have common sense. This was defined as the ability to do or say the right thing at the right time.

Miss Sherwood is a pleasant talker and much good should be derived from her lectures.

"LUCK IN TEACHING"

By Supt. J. V. McMillan

The opening address of the Institute this year was given by Supt. J. V. McMillan before an interested and appreciative audience. The speaker first pointed out the necessity of members of the Institute getting together and talking over common problems. Others may have more difficult questions to solve, thus setting our ideals a little higher, or we may help others by the light of our own experiences. What we shall get out of the Institute depends mainly upon what we bring to it.

Success in teaching like everything else comes not only by inspiration but also by perspiration. One of the greatest elements for teaching success is the thorough and definite planning of one's work. We should get away from the "nets and fishing tackle" and dig down for the true motives of pedagogy, like Hawthorne's beautiful white lilies which grew from the dark mud of the Concord river. If we are to be leaders at all, we must take command from the first moment we enter the school-room. Children like to come under the control of a master-mind, and for the possession of this we cannot trust to mere luck.

In all cases, children must be taken as they are, and the first thing is to find out exactly where they are. Do your own preparing and building of the foundations, then compare for relative and absolute standing. See if all necessary materials are on hand, so that no time may be lost and the first day will pass quickly. The teacher should be the leader by careful planning and studious preparation. It is better that the pupils do not know there is anything they are unable to do, even if it is necessary to

throw off part of the load. They need constant stimulation and may be put at their best by faith in themselves. Thus they will come to find a delight in doing successfully things which were difficult.

The only luck in teaching consists in this, that we inspire in our pupils the ambition to do that which they would not have done without us. On the subjective side is faith in ourselves. We must work hard to find the four-leaved clover of "faith, hope, love and luck."

MONDAY EVENING

The annual social under the direction of W. M. Coursen and his able committee was a decided success. After several songs with Mr. Ferguson as leader, the teachers were very pleasantly entertained by a reading by Miss Welker, and a song by Mr. McMillan. In the exciting contests which followed much new and exceptional talent was discovered in the ability to get acquainted as well as in the remarkable skill of manipulating a boat. Mr. George Gee of Coltsville earned the enviable reputation of being a "very fresh young man." Others equally distinguished in the finals, were Mr. Mortimer Coursen, Miss Gordon and Mrs. Miller. In the division of the pedagogues for refreshments, the large families were well cared for by their Pa's and Ma's and were in general well behaved children. The Live Family, in particular, did not belie its name. As a fitting close to this most enjoyable evening, and at a special request, Mr. W. M. Coursen rendered the closing song with great feeling and admirable expression. Altogether the social was a fine starter for Institute week.

ROLL OF TEACHERS

Callie Williamson, Youngstown R. 2.
Grace Hazen, Alliance, R. 4.
Mrs. S. O. Null, Sebring.
M. Edith Ferguson, Sebring.
W. D. McConnell, Lowellville.
J. C. Skaggs, Canfield.
R. M. Beeler, Lowellville.
Marie Welker, Greenford.
Evan C. Dressel, Beloit.
Olive Bailey, Washingtonville.
Frances M. Silder, Petersburg.
Jessie F. Butts, Petersburg.
Helen Van Lehn, Sebring.
Frances Horton.
Geo. H. Rowles, Youngstown.
Anna Roth.
Ray Lambert, North Jackson.
Genevieve Mariner, Youngstown.
Edna Cooper, Youngstown.
E. G. Potts, Austintown.
Bernice Parrshall, Canfield.
E. W. Erney, New Middletown.
Mary E. Welch, Sebring.
Nora McCauley, Beloit.
Ruth Welker, Petersburg.
Elsie F. Rowland, Sebring.
Lois Stine, Beloit.
Bertha Thompson, Struthers.
Hugh Butler, Youngstown, R. 4.
Emma Seaholm, Lowellville.
Lois E. Lackey, Poland.
Edna M. Bowers, Youngstown.
Edna Marshall, North Jackson.
R. R. Cross, Canfield.
J. W. Balfour, Beloit.
Helen A. Boyle, Salem, R. 4.
M. S. Coursen, Youngstown.
Rhea M. Davis, Alliance.
Wilda Davis, Youngstown.
Elizabeth Simcox, Youngstown, R. 1.
Edna Dutter, North Lima.
Mabel Batzile, Salem, R. 5.
R. L. Drubot, Damascus.
Tyrell M. Robinson, Canfield.
Kathryn Davis, Youngstown, R. 1.
Jessie E. Harrold, Salem R. 5.
Elizabeth Simpson, Sebring.
Ethel Naylor, Beloit, R. 1.
Gertrude Beggs, Sebring.
Gertrude Nelson, Youngstown, R. 4.
Ruth Duncan, Youngstown, R. 4.
Eleanor V. Liddle, Poland.
Joseph Justice, Salem.
Lillian Burke, Berlin Center.
Ruth L. Keen, Beloit.
Nellie M. Koch, Beloit.
Mrs. Goldie Conry, Poland, R. 2.
Ralph Thompson, Austintown.
Meredith D. Morris, Poland.
Alma Lattan, Youngstown.
Edna O. Everett, Youngstown, R. 4.
Faye Cox, Calla.
Louise M. Albert, Poland.
Marguerite Cole, Diamond.
James H. Dushman, Salem, R. 4.
Verna Konkle, Canfield, R. 1.
Hazel Hanahan.
Mollie Lattan, Youngstown.
Eddie Lynn, Calla.
Estella Burke, Youngstown, R. 1.
Lotta Myers, Canfield.
Esther Heintzelman, W. Austintown.
Helen Harries, Lowellville.
D. K. Pitts, New Middletown.
Ruth Fahney, Youngstown, R. 1.
J. N. Gallaher, North Jackson.
Ruth Curl, Youngstown, R. 1.
Anna Coultrap, Youngstown, R. 1.
Myrtle Johnston, Youngstown, R. 4.
Irene Maurice, Lowellville.
Edna Shoff, Poland, R. 1.
Theo Fellnagle, Salem, R. R.
Anna Simpson, Sebring.
Rose E. Indes, Youngstown, R. 1.
L. D. Campbell, New Bedford, Pa.
Irene Keeton, Youngstown.
Mary McConnell, Sebring.
Belle McCaughy, North Benton.
Pauline Gould, New Middletown.
Pearl Becker, Diamond.
Margaret Erskine, Lowellville.
Grace Hamilton, Calla.
Louise F. Halt, Lowellville.
Martha Cowden, Lowellville.
Alveta Houk, Columbiana, R. R.
Theresa Piper, Youngstown, R. 1.
Della Shellito, Youngstown, R. 1.
Jerome Hull.
A. W. Ricksecker, Lowellville.
Naomi Miller, Columbiana.
Helen Johnson, Columbiana.
Leeta Smith, Calla.

Bernice Buck, Austintown.
Ina Young, Ellsworth.
Edna Baldwin, Youngstown, R. 4.
Edna J. Carr, Youngstown, R. 1.
Estia Barger, East Youngstown.
Margaret Dixey, Columbiana.
Verna Summers, New Middletown.
Ruth Woodford, North Lima.
Helen Campbell, Austintown.
Grace S. Shaefer, Canfield.
Tryphena Hobson, North Lima.
Lucy Arner, Damascus.
Ella Kent, Canfield.
Ethel Shinbeckle, North Benton.
Mary Maurice, Lowellville.
Catherine Dell, Lowellville.
Georgia Summers, North Lima.
Myrtle Hitchcock, Ellsworth.
Geo. P. Gee, Youngstown, R. 1.
Edith M. Cover, E. Youngstown.
Jane A. Moore, Youngstown.
M. H. Hoover, Greenford.
J. R. Slekkinen, Petersburg.
E. R. North, North Lima.
Ralph Elser, Struthers.
Raymond McBride, Lowellville.
Erma Heck, Coltsville Center.
Irma J. Smith, Greenford.
Frances Flickinger, Austintown.
Edna Heiser, Columbiana, R. R.
Hulda Gordon, Sebring.
Mildred Hatch, Sebring.
Margaret Kennedy, Coltsville Center.
O. H. Brickley, Canfield.
Vern Rupert, Youngstown.
Tressie Yaeger, Austintown.
Hazel Cook, Canfield.
Gertrude Denning, Struthers.
Florence Strachan, Youngstown, R. 1.
Clara Chester, Youngstown, R. 1.
J. M. Minter, Canfield.
Hannah Balsler, New Springfield.
Edna Guterba, Petersburg.
Edna Muntz, Struthers.
Nola Holben, Canfield.
J. B. Cover, Poland.
Mary Pow, Salem R. R.
Ruth Burger, Canfield.
Marjorie Burger, Lowellville.
Marie Smith, North Jackson.
Alice C. Winter, Boardman.
M. G. Kimmel, Poland.
Hazel Manchester, Salem, R. 4.
Carrie Coburn, Struthers.
Mary Dixon, North Jackson.
Sam T. Burns, Youngstown, R. 4.
Clara Boyer, Salem, R. 5.
Flossie Boyer, Salem, R. 4.
L. U. Hulín, Youngstown.
A. L. Whitehouse, Berlin Center.
Wilma Roof.

to the school. She should be proud of her profession and although it is not best to talk shop at all times the good things of the school should be made the topic of much conversation as that is one of the very best ways in which to arouse interest.

The lecture was instructive from start to finish and much interest was manifested by all present.



SUPT. J. V. McMILLAN

The Mahoning County Teachers' Institute may count itself especially blessed in having with it this year one of the foremost educators in the state of Ohio—Dr. J. V. McMillan of Marietta—a man of intensely interesting personality, sound and whole-some thoughts, and with unusually wide experience. Mr. McMillan comes of school-teaching ancestry, and his boyhood home is only two counties south of Mahoning. He was born March 14, 1869, at Germano, Ohio, and received his early education in the common schools of Harrison county. He spent his summers on a farm or in a brickyard, and by outside work was able to enter Selo College where he spent two years. His undergraduate work was completed by two years at Heidelberg in Tiffin, O. Since then, Mr. McMillan's summers have been employed to good advantage by advanced work at the Universities of West Virginia, Chicago and Columbia. He now holds the degrees of Master of Arts and Doctor of Pedagogy, the latter an honorary title bestowed by Ohio University.

Supt. McMillan's teaching experience was gained by three years spent in the common schools, three years as principal of a village school, and one-half year as principal of the high-school at Dennison. At the last mentioned place he was promoted to the superintendency in the middle of the year and served there six years. Next we hear of him occupying a like position at Canal Dover for three years, whence he was transferred to Marietta where he has been superintendent of schools for the past fourteen years. Mr. McMillan's latest achievement is his election as Dean and Professor of Philosophy and Education at Marietta College. Altogether, Prof. McMillan's career has been a most varied and well-rounded one, and he is splendidly equipped to give the teachers of Mahoning county an inspiring message of cheer and wisdom.

MATHEMATICS IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

By Supt. J. V. McMillan

Mathematics is becoming less prominent in our present-day curriculum, though once regarded as the touchstone of an education. While it is so practical, it is at the same time one of the most difficult of subjects to impart, by its abstract nature. According to Herbert Spencer's Essay on Education, the genesis of knowledge in the individual should parallel that of the race. Hence we must begin with the concrete, and allow children to develop their mathematical sense naturally. As the development of the science in the race has been slow and painful, so the problems for children should not be made too difficult. They must be concrete in the psychological sense and come within the range of their own experience.

Number has (1) the counting aspect, and (2) should be taught objectively. The best training of teachers of Mathematics is to be obtained in the normal schools. What is required in practical business life and by the institutions of higher learning is simply the ordinary fundamental operations well learned. The great problems of life are of the alternative type, and Mathematics is no longer taught for purely disciplinary value. Children should be able (1) to understand the language of a problem, and (2) to image its conditions. It is an absolute misconception merely to juggle numbers for the sake of getting an answer. They are to be dramatized and made concrete.

Accuracy and rapidity in solving problems go hand in hand and have to be developed artificially. The power, once gained, is easily lost unless one keeps in constant practice. "Stock solutions" and the sticking to exact formulae of wording are to be abhorred. It is first a question of whether a problem is reasonable, then proof of the result. The best test of the mathematical ability of children is their skill in making new problems for themselves.

THE TEACHER IN THE COMMUNITY

By Miss Sherwood

The second address was given by Miss Sherwood. In opening she said the business of life is getting along with our fellowmen. In order for the teacher to get along best in a community (for she more than anyone else should be a part of it) is to become thoroughly acquainted with the parents of all the children under her instruction. This should be done early in the school year.

The teacher should take an active part in the social life of the community, and where there is little or no social life it is the duty of the teacher to create it.

One of the big problems is found in the church life of the community. Oftentimes there are different opinions prevalent as to what church should be attended. Nevertheless some church should be attended and if there is only one, take an active part in it, whatever denomination it may be. In fact the teacher should be the social leader as well as the educational leader of the community.

It is the duty of the teacher to be loyal at all times to the children and

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